

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04646 090828Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 /095 W  
-----026043 090830Z /10

P R 090740Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8733  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4646

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, WA  
SUBJ: STEYN OFFERS SAFE CONDUCT TO SWAPO LEADERS

1. SUMMARY: IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE RAND DAILY MAIL,  
SOUTH WEST AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR- GENERAL ( AG) JUSTICE M.  
T. STEYN, OFFERED " SAFE CONDUCT" TO EXILED SWAPO LEADERS,  
IN PARTICULAR SAM NUJOMA, TO RETURN TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA  
AND DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS, AT THE SAME  
TIME HE INDICATED THAT IF NECESSARY AN INTERNATIONALLY  
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION COULD BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT SWAPO  
PARTICIPATION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE RAND DAILY MAIL OF SEPTEMBER 8 QUOTES THE  
NEW SOUTH WEST AFRICA ADMINISTRATOR- GENERAL STEYN AS  
SAYING" IF IT IS NECESSARY FOR AN ULTIMATE DECISION TO  
BE TAKEN BY SWAPO WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ELECTION  
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OR NOT, FOR ME TO SEE MR. NUJOMA OR ANY OF THE OTHER  
DECISION MAKERS, I WOULD CERTAINLY BE WILLING TO DO SO."

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, BASED ON A SEPTEMBER 7  
INTERVIEW, STEYN OFFERED A SAFE CONDUCT TO NUJOMA AND  
OTHER EXILED SWAPO LEADERS TO RETURN TO NAMIBIA FOR THE  
DISCUSSION. ALTERNATIVELY, HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET

NUJOMA IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY OUTSIDE OF SWA. " EVEN THOUGH SWAPO MAY CONSIDER THAT THE REQUEST COMES FROM AN ILLEGAL SOURCE," HE SAID, " I REITERATE MY REQUEST FOR THEM TO PLEASE COME AND PARTICIPATE." HE SAID HE EXPECTED THAT CONTACT WITH NUJOMA COULD BE MADE THROUGH INTERNAL SWAPO, BUT IF NECESSARY, HE WOULD INVESTIGATE OTHER CHANNELS, SUCH AS THE CHURCHES, TO CONTACT HIM.

3. STEYN INDICATED TO THE INTERVIEWER, REPORTER DENNIS GORDON, THAT EMERGENCY LAWS SUCH AS PROCLAMATION R17 WOULD BE SCRAPPED OR MODIFIED IF THEY IMPEDED FREE MOVEMENT OR ELECTIONEERING. HE WOULD ALSO SOON SCRUTINIZE SUCH APARTHEID MEASURES AS THE MIXED MARRIAGES AND IMMORALITY ACTS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT " I MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THERE IS A DANGER OF ARMED INSURRECTION ON THE NORTHERN BORDER."

3. STEYN INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PROCEED WITHOUT SWAPO, IF SWAPO PARTICIPATION COULD NOT BE MANAGED: " EVEN IF CERTAIN POLITICAL PARTIES REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS, THE REMAINING PARTIES MAY BE ABLE TO FORM A STABLE GOVERNMENT LATER ON. I CAN SEE A SETTLEMENT BEING REACHED PEACEFULLY EVEN WITHOUT SWAPO'S PARTICIPATION IF WE CAN SATISFY THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAT THE ELECTIONS WERE HELD UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH RENDERED POSSIBLE THE EXPRESSION

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OF THE UNTRAMMELLED WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY."

4. COMMENT: NEEDLESS TO SAY, THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY STEYN ABOUT WHAT HE IS GOING TO DO, WHETHER OR NOT SWAPO COOPERATES, ARE NOT HELPFUL. BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Subject:** STEYN OFFERS SAFE CONDUCT TO SWAPO LEADERS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, WA, SWAPO, (NUJOMA, SAM), (STEYN, MARTHINUIS T)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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